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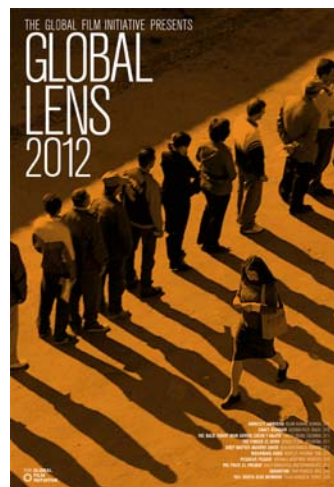
Global Lens 2012 Regional Premiere at Hartford Public Library

Award-winning world cinema series to screen at the Downtown Library this fall

Hartford, CT – July 5, 2012 – Hartford Public Library announced today that the Global Lens 2012 film series—a showcase of ten award-winning narrative feature films from Albania, Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Iran, Iraq, Morocco, Rwanda and Turkey—will screen at the Library’s Center for Contemporary Culture located at 500 Main Street, Hartford from September through November.

The film series is *free* to the public.

“The lineup this year is really going to surprise audiences,” says Susan Weeks Coulter, Board Chair of the Global Film Initiative. “The cinematics are strong, the tone is fresh and the stories are thought-provoking and unlike anything we’ve seen before—we’re thrilled to be screening them at Hartford Public Library.”



Global Lens 2012 is led by festival heavyweights that include Iranian newcomer Morteza Farshbaf’s darkly comic road trip, **MOURNING** (FIPRESCI Prize and New Currents Award, 2011 Pusan IFF), Paula Markovitch’s picturesque and beautifully acted Argentine political drama, **THE PRIZE** (Silver Bear, 2011 Berlin IFF and Best Film, 2011 Morelia IFF), and **PEGASUS** (Golden Stallion, 2011 FESPACO and Best Cinematographer, 2010 Dubai IFF)—Mohamed Mouftakir’s atmospheric psychological thriller about tribes and tradition in present-day Morocco.

The Global Lens film series is an annual, curated program of narrative feature films from Africa, Asia, Central & Eastern Europe, Latin America and the Middle East.

“The Library is delighted to present this brilliant series of films from around the world,” said Matthew K. Poland, the Library’s chief executive officer. “Each film in the series is selected for its authentic voice, its strong cinematography and unique cultural perspective, opening a window to the diverse world in which we live. 2012 marks the first year the series will play at the Library and in Connecticut.”

For more information, please visit: <http://center.hplct.org> call Jerome Myers, public services director, at 860-695-6322 or email jmyers@hplct.org.

Global Lens 2012 films:

AMNESTY (AMNISTIA), dir. Bujar Alimani, Albania, 2011

A new law allowing conjugal visits in Albanian prisons presents the opportunity for a sympathetic affair between a man and woman visiting their incarcerated spouses—until a prisoner amnesty threatens their fragile new bond.

CRAFT (RISCADO), dir. Gustavo Pizzi, Brazil, 2010

A struggling actress and celebrity impersonator lands an audition and what may be her “big break” after an inspired director recasts his film around her socially marginalized life as an underrated artist in Rio.

FAT, BALD, SHORT MAN (GORDO, CALVO Y BAJITO), dir. Carlos Osuna, Colombia, 2011

The prospects for a lonely middle-aged notary unexpectedly change after he joins a self-improvement group and his charismatic new boss—and strangely affable doppelgänger—takes an interest in his life.

THE FINGER (EL DEDO), dir. Sergio Teubal, Argentina, 2011

In the face of electoral fraud and intimidation, the severed finger of a respected local leader points the way forward for independent-minded citizens and their town’s quest for democracy after dictatorship.

GREY MATTER (MATIÈRE GRISE), dir. Kivu Ruhorahoza, Rwanda, 2011

After government officials decline to support his project, a determined filmmaker enlists the support of a loan shark to finance his trenchant drama about the aftermath and impact of genocide on a brother and sister.

MOURNING (SOOG), dir. Morteza Farshbaf, Iran, 2011

In the wake of his parents’ disappearance, a young boy is placed in the care of his deaf aunt and uncle who, during a road trip to Tehran, engage in a silent but apparently not-so-secret debate about the child’s future.

PEGASUS (PEGASE), dir. Mohamed Mouftakir, Morocco, 2010

A young woman, traumatized by her dictatorial father’s insistence she be raised as a boy, finds herself the unwitting patient of a psychiatrist intent on learning the truth behind the girl’s story.

THE PRIZE (EL PREMIO), dir. Paula Markovitch, Argentina/Mexico, 2011

A political activist’s life-in-hiding on an isolated stretch of Argentina’s coastline is jeopardized after her seven-year-old daughter is selected to participate in a local school’s patriotic essay contest.

QARANTINA, dir. Oday Rasheed, Iraq, 2010

A sullen assassin, living above a dysfunctional family in Baghdad, captures the attention of the household’s unhappy mother, setting a dangerous stage for confrontation with the family’s lecherous father.

TOLL BOOTH (GIŞE MEMURU), dir. Tolga Karaçelik, Turkey, 2010

An aging toll booth attendant, straining under the weight of a domineering father and suffocating work routine, finally begins to crack when faced with the emotional pressure of an unexpected romance.

About the Global Film Initiative

The Global Film Initiative is a U.S.-based international arts organization specializing in the support of independent film from Africa, Asia, Central & Eastern Europe, Latin America and the Middle East. Founded in 2002 to promote cross-cultural understanding through the language of cinema, the Initiative awards numerous grants to deserving filmmakers from around the world each year, and supports a touring film series entitled Global Lens. For more information about the Global Lens film series and Global Film Initiative programs, please visit: www.globalfilm.org.

About Hartford Public Library

The Hartford Public Library traces its roots to 1774. It operates 10 locations in the City of Hartford. The

Library receives more than 860,000 visits per year. Services include access to a large collection of materials for reading and research, as well as music and video. Programs provide education, information and enrichment to the people of Hartford in such areas as citizenship training, literacy, business skills and cultural awareness. The mission of Hartford Public Library is to provide free resources that inspire reading, guide learning, and encourage individual exploration. Please visit hplct.org and the library's new blog at blogs.hplct.org.

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